PROMOTING RESEARCH CULTURE-A PRIORITY OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Exploring the new trends and new facets of higher education and research has assumed added significance in the globalized world of the twenty-first century. Since the strength of today's economies is increasingly based on how well they can harness knowledge and expertise, the role of the higher education system has become crucial in international competition. It is this system that determines an economy's capacity to adapt swiftly to new situations, new markets and new technologies: countries with the least competitive higher education systems incur more substantial costs than others in our globalized world.

Globalization is exerting a deeper impact on higher education and research than ever before. Industry and services have been off-shoring into emerging countries at a fast pace, highlighting the crucial role of technological sophistication and, more generally speaking, the importance of the knowledge economy in international competition.

In today's digital era, many academic institutions have gradually connected with one another to build global networks. This situation stems from the technological revolution in communications, developments in science, as well as the very nature of knowledge, which now operates via accumulation and paradigm shifts.

Three major trends are shaping education and research at a worldwide level:

Increase in international mobility in tertiary education, which is giving rise to new modes of competition within higher education and research;

Economic competition, which is now playing a key role in higher education and research; and

Competition amongst academic and research institutions, which is impacting on their concentration, diversification and modernization.

Research is a profit making activity and not a financial liability. It is research that creates joyful atmosphere in learning, and improves the quality of education. Still most of the colleges in India are not research oriented and are not having research infrastructure as well. The mindset of key people in institutes, unfortunately, is not in favour. The syllabi are oriented to teaching known knowledge and a practice presuming that knowledge is finite. Whereas knowledge is infinite and students need to learn skills to discover the unknown. Education without research and innovation skills remains incomplete and irrelevant in modern sense. Wealth of a nation is vested today in doctoral research done by scholars. Japan produces 28 PhDs per million population USA 30 and India only 0.45, if we take technical education, there is shortage of M. Tech and PhD in thousands. Our universities and colleges must take a special drive in this connection.

Teaching and Research are found to be inseparable and mutually supportive to each other. Research makes learners achievement oriented. Every professor is to act like a scientist, in search of new knowledge. They should be encouraged to build a research team consisting of junior and senior students along with lab assistants. There should be provision of funds as well at the time of appointment itself. Institutions must change their culture in favour of research. An institution should be a source of new knowledge, new theories, and new technologies. Research brings more money, more endowments, name and fame for institution.

Research and Education are like two ends of a bow. The arrow does not move forward unless

the two ends of the bow are tightly tied together by a string. Neither end has a force without the support of other. An institution needs to bind the two ends together, namely education and research to provide quality education. But the ugly reality is that our universities and institutions have rigid, inflexible and outdated rules and regulations. There is an need to adopt well proven systems and procedures from developed countries. The sooner we realize, the better it is.

Opportunities and Possibilities of Sustainable Development through Research.

Sustainable development refers to a mode of development through which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for future generation. The term sustainable development was used by the Brundtland commission report which coined what has become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of nature with the social challenges faced by human beings. The concept of sustainable development has in the past most often been broken out into three constituent parts: environmental sustainability

Higher education plays important role for human sustainable development. Researches and training appears determining factors for increasing creativity and rational thinking. Problem solving capacities and competitiveness need to foster the increasingly complex cultural, social and technological decision involved in sustainable development. Researches for sustainable development are not just the areas of environment, but more about values and ethics. Researches for sustainable development is not only a social issue but also a matted of economic policy. There are two major challenges regarding the reshaping of higher education for sustainable development.-

1. Devising institutional educational strategies and programs, taking into account all the educational actors and the communication channel available.
2. Increasing the quality and usefulness of the various educational and training process, aimed primarily at citizens, economic partners and young people (Reddy, 2010).

Major Sustainable Development Issues for Research-

- Placing a system of values and ethics at the center of society's concerns.
- Encouraging a meeting of disciplines, a linking of knowledge and of expertise, and to render our understanding more integrated and contextualized and so, in turn, to open up new horizons for justice and equality.
- Encouraging lifelong learning, starting at the beginning of life and grounded in life- one based on a passion for a radical transformation of society and a change in the moral character of society.
- Advancing new conceptions rooted both in traditional scientific rationality and in popular beliefs and consciousness, drawing on these as a source of human understanding and a pointer to collective wisdom.
- Encouraging the refinements of locally based processes of change and of integral community advancement, one not marked by a passive receptivity to or a mindless repetition of homogeneous development models.
- Elevating the importance of social subjectivity and of the qualitative dimension of social life.
- Encouraging new alliances between the State and civil society in promoting citizens' emancipation medicated by the practice of democratic principles while fully

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acknowledging the complexities inherent to every human reality.

- Promoting a culture of citizenship and give value to social actors such as non-governmental organizations and other sub-groups.
- Mobilizing society in a concerted effort so as to eliminate poverty and all forms of violence and injustice that jeopardize the future and the maintenance of a good quality of life.
- Valorizing aesthetics, the creative use of the imagination, an openness to risk and flexibility and a willingness to explore new options.
- Asserting the importance of local communities and their ties to the entire Earth and indeed with the universal.
- Identifying and pursue new human projects in the context of a planetary consciousness and a personal and communal awareness of global responsibility.
- Engendering new hopes and way of channeling the valuable energies and resources of entire nations.
- Seek understanding to anticipate, to imagine and to contextualize.
- Reaching a stage in which the possibility of change and the real desire for change are accompanied by a concerted, active participation in change, at the appropriate time, in favor of a sustainable future for all.
- Instilling in the minds of all people a conviction of the values of peace in such a way as to promote the creation of new lifestyles and living patterns.
- Developing to the maximum, the potential of all, throughout their lives, so that they can achieve self-fulfillment and full self-expression with the collective achievement of a viable future; effect change in value systems, behavior patterns and lifestyles necessary to achieve sustainable development, and ultimately democracy, security and peace.

- Disseminating the knowledge and skills necessary to foster sustainable production and consumption patterns and to improve the management of natural resources, agriculture, energy and industrial production.
- The current scenario of research in India;
- A well managed and progressive education system rests on the work of able researchers and their vision. Unfortunately, Indian education system lacks good researchers and opportunities. Bright scholars and researchers require motivation and right attitude to carry on their work. Low job opportunities post research plays nemesis to their motivation and thus, hinders new breed of researchers to join the research field. In my view few polices by authorities such as UGC can help enhance research scenario. Promotion being dependent on a compulsory research work is one such policy.

(P. Kanimozhi 21 Jun 2013)

- During the research period there is no professional relationship between Ph.D student and guide. Research training such as journal writing, methodology, dissertation writing is needed for Ph.D students to pursue their higher learning whereas research students in State University are mostly exploited by giving administrative or clerical work or domestic work and they have been ill-treated on the basis of communal ground, torched by asking money and other forms of goods by guide. In these situations , Ph.D students are frequently heartened psychologically and they couldn't concentrate on their research successfully. Hence, the administration should aware of these problems and give special attention to the welfare of the Ph.D students.
- (Dr.G.Mohan Narasimha Rao
01 Jun 2011)

- Prof. Jaya Kumar clearly mentioned the current scenario of the research in our country. Now a days a B.Ed candidate is more powerful than a Ph.D holder for getting a job. Ph.D holders are less paid and mentally humiliated in the job market. In other hand, in some universities, there is no good evaluation system for Ph. D. It leads to proliferation of more number of Degrees with out scientific quality.
- (Mohandas
03 Jan 2011)
- In many institutions in India, there is a frantic effort to step up the number pf PhDs. The requirements of PhD for higher academic positions and number of publications for career advancement has really diluted the quality of research. Research of inferior quality gets awarded degrees even in good institutions. Unfortunately there are no clear criteria to evaluate quality of research. Unless the research is of fundamental nature or at least of use to humanity, it becomes a mere academic exercise to achieve career benefits.

Threats to quality research: Research and Education are like two ends of a bow. The arrow does not move forward unless the two ends of the bow are tightly tied together by a string. Neither end has a force without the support of other. An institution needs to bind the two ends together, namely education and research to provide quality education. But the ugly reality is that our universities and institutions have rigid, inflexible and outdated rules and regulations. There is an need to adopt well proven systems and procedures from developed countries. The sooner we realize, the better it is.

Now-a-days, U.G.C., Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and other government agencies responsible for funding and monitoring higher education are giving much importance to the research

work in the academic performance of teachers. But it is observed that original works are not done at Universities. Today, the main purpose of doing research in the universities and colleges are to get a degree or other benefits for career advancement, not for the sake of research. Teachers are interested in taking more and more students as in career advancement number of Ph.D guided are one of the contributing factors. There is a dearth of Ph.D students. Each teachers is full of allotted seats. Approximately 90% of the P.G. pass out wish to enroll in the Ph.D course though all of them are not interested to complete it. Many of the students join Ph.D because at the time of joining they have no other option. As soon as they get other work, they left it or not so devoted in their work. Some do Ph. D because of the tag of highly qualified (wants only degree and not bothered with the quality of work). Some take because of the academic compulsion. They have to take the senior position for which Ph.D is must. So one of the most important factor, that determine quality research is aim and attitude of the students to pursue work.

Now-a-days, Ph.D admissions are done through Ph.D entrance test, UGC has given direction for this. But that does not ensure the selection of research oriented students. In this process, most of the time students are not able to get the supervisor of their own choice and vice-versa. A quality research can be produced when there is a combination of research oriented supervisor and dedicated research scholar. And this is a rare chance. The scholars who work on daily basis with expert supervisor can produce a good work qualitatively better than unpaid and part-time researcher. For quality work, supervisor has to work as a mentor, which is not possible because at a time, they have to work with approximately 6 to 8 candidates besides teaching and all other activities.

There is a lack of scientific training in research i.e. how researches are to be conducted and which methodology to be used for a particular

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topic. Though, many research methodological courses are organized by Academic Staff Colleges and other agencies, but they are either few in number and or unable to develop research skills in particulars. As a coordinator and participant of a refresher course, it was experienced that when a resource person speaks on an innovative method of teaching, most of the participants from universities find it of no use for them and when a resource person speaks on an innovative method of research, most of the participants from colleges feel that it is irrelevant for them as they are involved only in teaching and not allowed to guide the research work. At the same time, it is a significant fact at the higher education teaching and research goes side by side. One cannot improve his or her teaching unless he/she is research oriented. You research while you teach and you teach while you research. Research does not mean to prepare two or three questionnaire/tools and get it filled with the respondents. For a quality research one has to look beyond the filled forms and tools. Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (2009) has also suggested that teachers should be a researcher. They must engage themselves through structured class room based projects; develop in them several skills to function as a researcher. Teacher should undertake short research projects that aim to enhance their based learning frame work provides direction in teaching and learning.

For quality research, following practical steps should be taken into consideration:

- There should be well defined criteria to differentiate quality and poor research work. Research is considered to be higher level of intellectual growth of a person, so there is a need to evolve a research quality indicator. For this a national independent authority should be established. All research work should be registered with this authority.

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- Quality research should get recognized at the local level so that it can be implemented for the betterment of community.

- Better infrastructure and conducive environment should be provided in universities and colleges for nurturing and sustaining research work.

- Any type of research work should be a full time course and everyone gets some money.

- Priority areas of research in each subject should be displayed.

- There should be some central body where the results of each research should be published.

- UGC funded study centres must be encouraged to produce some research work.

- Action research should find due place.

- Need of the hour is to focus on Meta Research.

- There must be job guarantee for the person who is pursuing research work.

- Innovation should be encouraged in research.

- How many and which type of extension work is done, should also be a research area.

Conclusion

Thus, researches empower the faculty for an in-depth approach in teaching. It improves quality of education because the improvement can only be possible through the findings of the research work done and its implications. For this, higher education institutions must

have culture of research, excellent infrastructure e. g. research friendly libraries, availability of computer and internet, access of latest journals, reducing the load of teaching, creating incentive for good research in an appropriate manner. But the most important is that actions based on good intentions will surely lead to quality research..

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